

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, based on this amendment and these following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 through 11, 13 through 16, and 18 through 22 remain in this case. Amendment to claims 1, 3, 11, and 13 is presented. Claims 2, 12, and 23 through 29 are proposed to be canceled. Claim 17 was previously canceled.

Claims 2 through 4 and 12 through 14 were objected to because of informalities in claims 2 and 12, specifically the reciting of "sample stream input" rather than "sample stream inputs". As discussed below, claims 2 and 12 are canceled because their limitations are substantially incorporated into proposed amended claims 1 and 11, respectively. The amendment suggested by the Examiner is incorporated into that proposed amendment of claims 1 and 11. Claims 2 and 12 are proposed to be canceled, obviating the objection.

Claims 1, 5 through 11, 15, 16, and 18 through 29 were finally rejected under §103 as unpatentable over the Strich et al. reference¹ in view of the Chen et al. reference.² Claims 2 through 4, and 12 through 14, were indicated as drawn to allowable subject matter, but were objected to as depending on a rejected claim.³

To advance the prosecution of this case, claims 1 and 11 are proposed to be amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 12, respectively. Claims 2 and 12 are proposed to be canceled accordingly. Claims 3 and 13 are proposed to be amended to now depend on proposed amended claims 1 and 11, respectively.

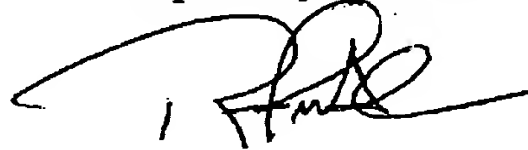
Claims 23 through 29 are canceled to advance the prosecution of this case, obviating the final rejection as to those claims.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,473,447, issued October 29, 2002 to Strich et al., based on an application filed June 28, 1995.

² U.S. Patent No. 6,728,323, issued April 27, 2004 to Chen et al., based on an application filed July 10, 2000.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that, upon entry of this amendment, the remaining claims 1, 3 through 11, 13 through 16, and 18 through 22, will be in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of this application in light of that amendment are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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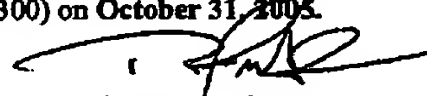
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³ Office Action of August 2, 2005, page 7.